

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 04901 01 OF 02 190529Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /079 W
-----109760 190535Z /16-53

R 181133Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3558
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 4901

C I R R E C T E D C O P Y ADD EO TAGS SUBJ

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: JESHYN DAY: DAOUD'S SPEECH AND ACCOMPANYING
ATMOSPHERICS

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT DAOUD OPENED THIS YEAR'S JESHYN CELEBRATION WITH A BRIEF SPEECH, DURING WHICH, INTER ALIA, HE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A CONTINUATION OF POSITIVE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN -- AND PROCLAIMED THE CHARTER OF THE NEW NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY (NRP). THE CUSTOMARY MILITARY PARADE ON JULY 17 INCLUDED SOME NEW SOVIET-SUPPLIED WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD'S JESHYN SPEECH (FULL TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM), BROADCAST TO THE COUNTRY ON THE EVENING OF JULY 16, WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF -- IT RAN LESS THAN FIFTEEN MINUTES -- AND LED WITH AN UPBEAT APPRAISAL OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS MADE WITHIN THE COUNTRY OVER THE PAST YEAR. DAOUD LEFT THE ENUMERATION OF THE DETAILS OF THESE ADVANCES TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 KABUL 04901 01 OF 02 190529Z

PLANNING MINISTER KHURRAM, BUT HE DID ADMIT THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY COULD NOT BE OVERCOME SIMULTANEOUSLY, AND THAT PRIORITIES MUST BE ESTABLISHED. WORKING TOGETHER, HE CONTINUED, THE AFGHAN PEOPLE CAN SOLVE THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS, ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE JULY 17 REVOLUTION, AND WITHSTAND THE RESISTANCE OF WHAT DAOUD CALLED THE "INTERESTS OF REACTIONARY AND EXTREMIST GROUPS" (I.E., THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT)

3. ELSEWHERE ON THE INTERNAL SCENE, DAOUD PROCLAIMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY (NRP), WHICH HAD BEEN CALLED FOR IN ARTICLE 130 OF THE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 24, 1977. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING OF A "NEW AFGHANISTAN" CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF VARIOUS SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A "VAST MOVEMENT GUIDED BY A NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY."

4. AS FOR FOREIGN POLICY, DAOUD STRESSED THE PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, AND NON-ALIGNMENT UPON WHICH AFGHANISTAN'S POLICY IS BASED, AS WELL AS KABUL'S ADHERENCE TO THE UN CHARTER. IN ADDITION, HE EXPRESSED THE APPRECIATION OF HIMSELF AND HIS PEOPLE TO "FRIENDLY NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES" FOR THEIR TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. PAKISTAN WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIFIC REFERENCE, AS DAOUD OBSERVED THAT "RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN OF A DOMESTIC NATURE," AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "OUR ONLY POLITICAL DIFFERENCE (I.E., PUSHTUNISTAN) CAN BE SETTLED IN THE INTEREST OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE AND THOSE OF THE REGION."

5. COMMENT: DAOUD'S REMARKS ON THE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCENT, CALLING FOR MORE NOSE-TO-THE-GRINDSTONE SACRIFICES WHILE REFERRING TO PAST AND, BY IMPLICATION, FUTURE PROGRESS, ARE FAIRLY STANDARD FARE. THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KABUL 04901 01 OF 02 190529Z

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NRP CHARTER IS NOTEWORTHY IN THAT DAOUD HIMSELF HAD SUSPENDED (REFTEL) THE PARTY MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE ON APRIL 10 OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE MACHINATIONS OF CERTAIN "SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS." WHETHER THESE ELEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN NEUTRALIZED IS PROBLEMATIC, BUT DAOUD'S ACTION INDICATES THAT HE IS PROBABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE FORMATION OF THE SOLE POLITICAL PARTY CALLED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION CAN NOW PROCEED. IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, DAOUD STILL APPARENTLY DEEMED IT NECESSARY TO LAUNCH A BROADSIDE AT THE "REACTIONARY AND EXTREMIST GROUPS" WITHIN AFGHANISTAN.

6. DAOUD'S REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN WAS FAIRLY LOW-KEY, AND HIS PORTRAYAL OF RECENT EVENTS AS STRICTLY INTERNAL PAKISTANI DEVELOPMENTS TRACKS WITH THE GENERALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD APPROACH WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AFGHAN MEDIA SINCE THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN PAKISTAN. HIS HOPEFUL AND ESSENTIALLY REASSURING TONE REGARDING THE FUTURE COURSE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, COUPLED WITH HIS DECISION TO SINGLE OUT PAKISTAN FOR PARTICULAR REFERENCE, TENDS TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE DAOUD AND THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT ATTACH TO RELATIONS WITH THAT NEIGHBOR. ALTHOUGH NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN BY THE PRESIDENT, AS WITH MOST THINGS SURROUNDING JESHYN, FORM CAN BE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN SUBSTANCE.

END COMMENT.

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PAGE 01 KABUL 04901 02 OF 02 192334Z
ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 4901

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH 7)

7. THE MORNING'S MILITARY PARADE DISPLAYED SEVERAL NEW SOVIET-SUPPLIED ITEMS IN THE AFGHAN DEFENSE INVENTORY. THE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES SA-3 AND SA-7 MADE THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE, AS DID TWO NEW PIECES OF HEAVY ARTILLERY (122MM D-30 HOWITZER AND 130MM M-46 FIELDGUN), AND MISCELLANEOUS ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, DAOUD DID NOT RIDE AT THE HEAD OF THE PARADE TO THE REVIEWING STAND AS HE DID LAST YEAR -- PERHAPS BECAUSE OF SOME RECENT MAJOR DENTAL WORK. HE ENTERED HIS BOX FROM THE REAR.

8. ALL IN ALL, THE OPENING JESHY EVENTS HAVE GONE WELL AND HAVE BEEN CARRIED OFF WITH GUSTO. EVEN THE RECENT EXTRACTION OF SIX TEETH FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL MOUTH, AND A VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED MID-DAY SUMMER STORM -- WITH HEAVY RAIN, WINDS AND HAIL -- COULD NOT DAMPEN THE PEOPLE'S HOLIDAY SPIRITS.
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